

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12  
NEA-10 L-03 HA-05 ACDA-12 /089 W  
-----109750 232149Z /66  
R 231920Z MAR 78  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0222  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O.11652:N/A  
TAGS: OCON, SHUM, PARM  
SUBJECT: UN ADMINISTRATION: COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES

1. SUMMARY: AT ITS MARCH 17 MEETING THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES WAS INFORMED THE UN LEGAL OFFICE HAD ADVISED THAT THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT HAVE THE POWER TO AUTHORIZE SUMMARY RECORDS FOR SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE GA, IN THIS INSTANCE THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE ONLY ACTED ON INTERSESSIONAL DEPARTURES FROM THE CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES. THE COMMITTEE'S SUBSTANTIVE SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE THE WEEK OF MAY 8-12. END SUMMARY

2. AT THE OUTSET OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES MARCH 17 MEETING, CHAIRED BY JEZIL (CZECH.), THE BUREAU (OUDOVENKO) INFORMED THE COMMITTEE THAT WITH RESPECT TO THE REQUEST OF THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE FOR SUMMARY RECORDS, THE LEGAL DIVISION HAD ADVISED THAT THERE IS NO EXISTING DELEGATION OF POWER WHICH PERMITS THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES TO AUTHORIZE SUMMARY RECORDS TO SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE GA. THE COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, MAY RECOMMEND TO THE GA THAT BODIES SHOULD HAVE SUMMARY RECORDS, BUT SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE FIFTH COMMITTEE AND THE ACABQ. FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS

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QUESTION WAS DEFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT MEETING. MEMO FROM THE LEGAL DIVISION, RECEIVED BY DEPARTMENT OF CONFERENCE SERVICES (CS) ONLY MOMENTS BEFORE THE MEETING, WAS NOT CIRCULATED OR ENTERED INTO THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE MEETING. US REP EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SINCE THE MEMO HAD NOT BECOME A FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDING IT MIGHT STILL BE REVIEWED WITH

THE LEGAL DIVISION.

3. THE COMMITTEE THEN PROCEEDED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING INTERSESSIONAL DEPARTURES FROM THE CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES:

A) HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE EXTENDED THREE DAYS - WILL NOW MEET FROM JULY 10 - AUGUST 3; B) WORKING GROUP OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE WILL MEET FROM JULY 3-7; AND C) PREPCOM FOR SSOD EXTENDED BY ONE WEEK - WILL NOW MEET FROM APRIL 4-21.

4. DURING DISCUSSION ON THE REQUEST FOR A MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE UK (STUART) STATED THAT THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD GIVE INFORMATION ON UNBUDGETED COSTS WHICH ARISE FROM DEPARTURES FROM THE CALENDAR. STUART NOTED THAT THIS WAS NOT AN ALTERATION OF PREVIOUS AUTHORIZATION FOR A MEETING, BUT AN ENTIRELY NEW REQUEST OF A NEW BODY FOR A PLACE ON THE CONFERENCE CALENDAR AND CONCOMITANT RESOURCES. IF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OCCURRED, THE ACABQ SHOULD HAVE TO GIVE ITS OPINION. USSR (FOKINE) SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE THE ACABQ'S OPINION AND ALL OTHER RELEVANT DATA WHEN DEPARTURES CAUSE UNPLANNED FOR COSTS. CANADA (HAHN) SAID THE QUESTION OF EXTRAORDINARY COSTS BELONGED TO THE ACABQ, WHILE PERMISSION TO CHANGE CONFERENCE DATES BELONGED TO THE COMMITTEE. ALGERIA QUERIED AS TO THE POWER OF THE COMMITTEE IF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACABQ HAD TO APPROVE ALL ACTIONS WHICH ENTAILED FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS. HAHN RESPONDED THAT QUESTIONS ARISING FROM DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE WERE TO BE DECIDED BY CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE SECRETARIAT AND THE ACABQ. THE COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, SHOULD HAVE ALL FINANCIAL DATA AT HAND WHEN IT IS ACTING ON DEPARTURES. US REP SAID THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES SHOULD BE TOLD FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DEPARTURES, BUT THAT APPROVAL OF DEPARTURES BY THE COMMITTEE DID NOT REPRESENT AUGMENTATION OF THE UN'S SPENDING AUTHORITY, FOR THAT ACABQ ACTION WAS REQUIRED. OUDEVOMKO INFORMED THE COMMITTEE THAT WITH RESPECT TO THE THREE DEPARTURES IT HAD APPROVED, CONFERENCE SERVICES ASSUMED THE EXPENSES WOULD BE ABSORBED WITHIN AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

5. CONSIDERATION OF THE REQUEST FOR ARABIC LANGUAGE SERVICES FOR THE PREPCOM FOR THE UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WAS POSTPONED TO THE NEXT MEETING. USUN HAS SINCE LEARNED FROM CS THAT THE LEGAL DIVISION RULING ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE SUMMARY RECORDS CASTS DOUBT ON WHETHER THE COMMITTEE CAN TAKE ACTION ON REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE SERVICES.

COMMENT: PRIOR TO MEETING USSR DEL (GRODSKY) COMPLAINED TO USDEL THAT SECRETARIAT HAD INVOLVED COMMITTEE IN THIS POTENTIALLY CONTROVERSIAL QUESTION. GRODSKY SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION SECRETARIAT HAD AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE SERVICES WITHOUT CONSULTING COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES. END COMMENT

6. TURNING TO THE DATES FOR THE COMMITTEE'S APRIL SUBSTANTIVE SESSION, OUDOVENKO INFORMED THE MEMBERS THAT BECAUSE OF THE EXTENSION OF THE SSOD PREPCOM THERE MAY NOT BE ADEQUATE MEETING SPACE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 3.

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AFTER SOME DISCUSSION ON ALTERNATE DATES THE COMMITTEE DECIDED, AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE CHAIRMAN, THAT THE BUREAU WOULD CONSULT PRIVATELY WITH MEMBERS AS TO THEIR PREFERENCES FOR SESSION DATES WITH THE DECISION BEING ANNOUNCED AT THE COMMITTEE'S NEXT MEETING. SINCE THE MEETING USUN HAS LEARNED INFORMALLY THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL CONVENE ONE DAY THE WEEK OF APRIL 24 - TO ACCOMMODATE THE SOLE ACABQ MEMBER, STUART (UK). THE REMAINDER OF THE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION WILL THEN TAKE PLACE THE WEEK OF MAY 8-12. LEONARD

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## Message Attributes

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